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CT General Assembly
Transportation Committee

Monday February 23, 2015

HB 6662- An Act Requiring a Warning Light While Flammable Fuel is Being Dispensed

I am Adam Friedman, General Manager of Superior Propane in Vernon, CT. I am second generation in our family business. I am here today representing the Propane Gas Association of New England and the 101 Connecticut based members of our organization who sell propane to Connecticut consumers.

We oppose HB 6662. Safety is the first priority of the propane industry. This bill would do little to promote safety for the propane industry or the general public. 99% of propane deliveries are made on private property in driveways or parking lots. The transfer of product happens some 100 feet from the truck on average where the driver is in attendance. There are no passerby's in these situations. On the rare occasion that a delivery must be made where there could be passersby, our drivers use their 4 way flashers to alert the public. If we were to have a light flashing in a yard it could actually create an additional hazard for the driver navigating the route through the yard to the tank being blinded by the flashing light.

As we read this bill it would require some additional light be installed. I contacted one of our member companies who fabricate and repair propane delivery trucks. To add a light to the back of the vehicle what would flash when the vehicle was pumping and to wire that light in would cost approximately \$770 per truck. There are approximately 325 propane delivery trucks serving CT consumers. The cost of this retrofit would be over \$250,000, a cost that Connecticut propane consumers would have to pay for!

Again, if we felt that this would enhance safety, then we would feel differently but as we are in driveways or parking lots making deliveries and there have been **no** incidents or accidents why burden the consumers with another cost?

We urge the committee not to support HB6662.

I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have.